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# Selected Speeches and News Releases

July 18 - July 25, 1991

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# News Releases

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U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Public Affairs

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## USDA PROTECTS 22 NEW PLANT VARIETIES AND REISSUES ONE CERTIFICATE

WASHINGTON, July 18—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued certificates of protection to developers of 22 new varieties of seedreproduced plants, including barley, garden bean, corn, cotton, marigold, perennial ryegrass, and soybean.

Kenneth H. Evans, with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said developers of the new varieties will have the exclusive right to reproduce, sell, import, and export their products in the United States for 18 years. Certificates of protection are granted after a review of the breeders' records and claims that each new variety is novel, uniform, and stable.

The following varieties have been issued certificates of protection:

—the Excel variety of barley, developed by the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, St. Paul, Minn.;

—the Trueblue and Slenderella varieties of garden bean, developed by the Ferry-Morse Seed Co., San Juan Bautista, Calif.;

—the WIL900, WIL901, and WIL903 varieties of corn, developed by Wilson Hybrids Inc., Harlan, Iowa;

—the LH127, LH163, LH194, LH195, LH204, LH205, LH206, LH210, and LH211 varieties of corn, developed by Holden's Foundation Seeds Inc., Williamsburg, Iowa;

—the Southland 400 variety of cotton, developed by the Southland Seed Co., Slaton, Texas;

—the CH252 and the CH253 varieties of cotton, developed by Chaney Ranch Research, Cantua Creek, Calif.;

—the Aurora Yellow Fire variety of marigold, developed by Goldsmith Seeds Inc., Gilroy, Calif.;

—the Nemanon variety of marigold, developed by Cardo Construct, Enkuizen, Holland;

—the Lindsay variety of perennial ryegrass, developed by International Seeds Inc., Halsey, Ore.; and

—the 29725K variety of soybean, developed by the Latham Seed Co., Alexander, Iowa.

The certificate of protection for the Excel barley variety is being issued

to be sold by variety name only as a class of certified seed, and to conform to the number of generations specified by the owner.

A certificate of protection for the SR 1020 variety of creeping bentgrass is being reissued at this time to include additional descriptive information.

The plant variety protection program is administered by AMS and provides marketing protection to developers of new and distinctive seedreproduced plants ranging from farm crops to flowers.

Carolyn Coutts (202) 447-8998

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## **HEARING SET ON PROPOSALS TO REDUCE PRICES FOR MILK USED FOR BUTTER AND POWDER**

WASHINGTON, July 19—The U.S. Department of Agriculture will hold a public hearing at 9 a.m., Tuesday, July 30, to consider a proposal to amend pricing for milk used to make butter and nonfat dried milk in 31 federal milk marketing orders. The meeting will be at the Ramada Hotel-Old Town, 901 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria, Va.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said 12 dairy farmer cooperatives requested the hearing because they contend the current price paid for milk used to make butter and nonfat dried milk exceeds the wholesale prices paid for butter and milk powder.

Milk used for such products presently is classified as "Class III" in most of the federal milk order system—the lowest priced milk in the system—and is equal to the price paid for Grade B (manufacturing grade) milk in Minnesota and Wisconsin (the "M-W price"). The proponents contend that those making significant amounts of butter and dried milk lose money making it with milk pegged at the M-W price.

The proponents would establish a subcategory in Class III milk pricing that would allow them to produce butter and dried milk without losing money. They propose prices in the subcategory be based on a formula incorporating the wholesale prices of butter and dried milk as well as Commodity Credit Corporation "allowances" for milk converted to butter and milk powder. A major purchaser of these products, the CCC includes an allowance for processing costs in the support price it pays for them.

The proponents have requested that USDA act on their request on an emergency basis, which would abbreviate normal rulemaking.

Authorized by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, federal milk marketing orders, which cover the major population centers in the continental U.S. except California, provide producers and consumers with the security of steady supplies of fairly priced milk.

Details of the proposal and a notice of the hearing will appear in the July 22 Federal Register. Copies may be obtained from any federal milk marketing order office, or Dairy Division, Order Formulation Branch, AMS, USDA, rm. 2968-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456; tel. (202) 447-6273.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

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## **ANGORA GOAT RAISERS APPROVE MOHAIR PROMOTION PROGRAM**

**WASHINGTON**, July 19—In a June 17-28 referendum, mohair producers voted to continue deductions from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation mohair incentive payments to finance promotion of mohair.

Preliminary returns show approval by 2,533 to 385, with 86.8 percent of the producers approving continuation of advertising and other market development under a proposed agreement between USDA and the Mohair Council of America. These 2,533 producers owned 89.8 percent of the goats owned by producers voting in the referendum. This agreement provides for domestic and foreign advertising, and sales promotion programs.

The proposed agreement authorizes deductions of up to 4-1/2 cents per pound from payments made under the National Wool Act on mohair marketed from 1991 through 1995.

Although there were no mohair price support payments made to producers from 1972 through 1980, funds generated under a 1971 agreement were not exhausted until 1978. From 1978 through mid-1983, MCA's activities were funded by the Texas Mohair Producers Board as authorized by Texas producers in a 1976 Texas mohair referendum.

Since mid-1983, MCA's activities have been funded through deductions from price support payments under the National Wool Act. Deductions from 1989 price support payments were about \$736,000.

The following tables show the state-by-state vote and production figures.

STATE	FOR	AGAINST	TOTAL	PERCENT FOR
Arizona	359	83	442	81.2
Michigan	98	7	105	93.3
Missouri	62	9	71	87.3
New Mexico	253	46	299	84.6
North Dakota	36	17	53	67.9
Ohio	114	20	134	85.1
Oklahoma	90	9	99	90.9
Texas	1,067	138	1,205	88.5
Other States*	454	56	510	89.0
Totals	2,533	385	2,918	86.8

(Production Represented Number of Angora Goats Owned)

Arizona	10,867	2,518	13,385	81.2
Michigan	5,684	508	6,192	91.8
Missouri	8,920	548	9,468	94.2
New Mexico	18,169	1,988	20,157	90.1
North Dakota	3,869	957	4,826	80.2
Ohio	3,909	730	4,639	84.3
Oklahoma	22,395	2,585	24,980	89.7
Texas	663,156	73,792	736,948	90.0
Other States*	29,841	3,747	33,588	88.8
Totals	766,810	87,373	854,183	89.8

\*Arkansas, California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming.

Bruce Merkle (202) 447-8206.

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## USDA ANNOUNCES FINAL COMPLIANCE FIGURES FOR 1990 ACREAGE REDUCTION PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, July 19—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced that producers on farms which had a total of 76.94 percent of the crop acreage bases established for wheat, feed grains, upland and extra-long staple (ELS) cotton and rice, were in compliance with the 1990 commodity production adjustment program requirements.

A total of 27.7 million acres were taken out of production and maintained in conserving uses.

Producers complying with the acreage reduction programs agreed to reduce their plantings 10 percent for corn, sorghum and barley, 5 percent for wheat, oats and ELS cotton, 12.5 percent for upland cotton and 20 percent for rice.

### National Summary of the 1990 Compliance Report

Crop	Effective Complying		ACR*	0/92- 50/92	Percent Complying
	Base <sup>1</sup>	Base			
<i>- - - - - million acres - - - -</i>					
Corn	82.6	63.9	6.1	4.6	77.44
Sorghum	15.4	10.8	1.0	2.3	70.22
Barley	11.9	8.1	0.7	2.2	68.19
Oats	7.5	0.7	0.03	0.2	9.23
Feed Grains	117.4	83.6	7.9	9.3	71.19
Wheat	80.5	66.7	2.2	5.3	82.86
Upland Cotton	14.4	12.4	1.5	0.5	86.49
ELS Cotton	0.2	0.03	0.001	0.0	22.30
Rice	4.2	3.9	0.7	0.3	93.65
Total	216.6	166.6	12.3	15.4	76.94

<sup>1</sup>Effective base from 1990 enrollment report.

\*Acreage Conservation Reserve.

Complete copies of the tables can be obtained by retrieving press release number 0712.

Bruce Merkle (202) 447-8206

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## MEAT IMPORTS ESTIMATE FOR THIRD QUARTER BELOW 1991 TRIGGER

WASHINGTON, July 19—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture John Campbell today announced the third-quarter estimate of U.S. meat imports for calendar year 1991 is below the level that would require quotas or restraints on imports under the Meat Import Act of 1979.

Campbell said that based on U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates of available supplies and marketing plans by major meat exporters, imports of beef and other meats subject to the act during 1991 should total 1,280 million pounds—about 38.5 million pounds below the 1991 trigger level of 1,318.5 million pounds.

Campbell said conditions in this country and abroad affecting U.S. meat imports will continue to be monitored for the remainder of the year and that the fourth quarter estimate will be announced about Oct. 1.

The Meat Import Act of 1979 requires the president to consider restrictions on imports of certain meat items—primarily beef and veal—if a USDA quarterly estimate of meat imports equals or exceeds the trigger level determined by formula in the act. The table below summarizes monthly imports of meat subject to the act from January 1988 through June 1991.

### Imports of Meat Subject to the Meat Import Act

	1988	1989 <sup>1</sup>	1990 <sup>1</sup>	1991 <sup>1</sup>
<i>----- Million pounds -----</i>				
January	135.6	74.5	90.7	66.0
February	112.3	80.3	97.1	85.9
March	144.8	88.5	115.4	114.4
April	146.6	97.1	118.0	97.1
May	134.7	104.0	76.9	101.5
June	142.7	103.4	100.8	145.2
July	124.4	114.6	121.3	
August	123.0	111.0	122.2	
September	140.4	90.2	137.7	

October	118.7	83.6	99.9
November	114.2	57.4	131.8
December	84.9	136.8	141.0
Total <sup>2</sup>	1,521.3	1,141.2	1,352.8

<sup>1</sup>Imports from Canada are excluded starting with 1989 as a result of the signing of the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Implementation Act of 1988.

<sup>2</sup>Totals may not add due to rounding.

Sally Klusaritz (202) 447-3448

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## **NO INCREASED DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS FOR 1990-CROP WHEAT, BARLEY AND OATS**

WASHINGTON, July 22—The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today there will not be any increased deficiency payments for the 1990-crop wheat, barley and oats programs because the 12-month national weighted average market prices for these crops exceeded the basic price support.

Keith Bjerke, executive vice president of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation, said the national average prices per bushel received by producers from June 1990 through May 1991 for wheat, barley and oats were, respectively: \$2.61, \$2.14 and \$1.14. The basic price support rate for each of these commodities was, respectively: \$2.44, \$1.60 and \$1.01. Thus, no increased payments, also known as "Findley" payments, were earned.

Bruce Merkle (202) 447-8206

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## **USDA REVISES GRADE STANDARDS FOR DRIED BUTTERMILK**

WASHINGTON, July 22—Effective Aug. 23, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will revise the U.S. grade standards for dried buttermilk to reflect changes in buttermilk marketing since the last revision in 1985.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the changes extend the standards for buttermilk produced

from sweet cream to include cream separated from whey (the liquid separating in cheesemaking) and cultured cream (sweet cream to which certain beneficial bacteria which produce lactic acid are added).

"The revision also establishes two major categories, "dry buttermilk," and "dry buttermilk product," which are distinguished by their protein content," Haley said. "Dry buttermilk" has to meet a minimum standard of 30-percent protein, and "dry buttermilk product" has less than 30-percent protein," he said.

USDA also is renaming the standards "U.S. Standards for Grades of Dry Buttermilk and Dry Buttermilk Product." The previous name was "U.S. Standards for Grades of Dry Sweetcream Buttermilk."

"Users of dried buttermilk, chiefly bakeries, want a product appropriate to their needs," Haley said. "With a rising demand for highprotein dried buttermilk for human consumption, it is timely that dried buttermilk grading standards be extended to additional sources of buttermilk," he said.

USDA developed the revision on the initiative of the American Dairy Products Institute. Details of the rule will be published in the July 24 Federal Register.

Copies of the revision and additional information are available from the Director, Dairy Division, AMS, USDA, Room 2968-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C., 20090; tel. (202) 447-4392.

Rebecca Unkenholz (202) 447-8998

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## **SENIOR CITIZENS MAY NEED MORE VITAMIN B6 THAN YOUNGER ADULTS**

WASHINGTON—Older people, particularly older women, appear to need more vitamin B6 than currently recommended, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture study published in the July issue of the Journal of Nutrition.

The three-month study of 61 to 71-year-old men and women broadens the age range of data for setting future Recommended Dietary Allowances for B6. These are currently based on studies of younger adults, said researchers at USDA's Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts, Boston.

Since the vitamin plays an important role in central nervous system functioning, a low intake in adults could lead to depression, lethargy, confusion or nervousness. But these symptoms of B6 deficiency could also result from other causes, including deficiencies of other B vitamins, said study leader Judy D. Ribaya-Mercado.

"It's very difficult to pinpoint someone who has a marginal deficiency unless you do a lot of biochemical tests on blood and urine," she said. "The clinical effects in adults are not readily apparent."

She said 1.6 milligrams of vitamin B6 are now recommended for all women. However, the six women selected for this controlled study required 1.9 mg before biochemical tests returned to normal.

The 2 mg currently recommended for all men just meets the 1.96 mg required by the six study men, without the safety margin normally built into an RDA, she said.

"These were the minimum intakes required to bring biochemical tests of their B6 status back to prestudy levels," said Ribaya-Mercado, a nutritionist at the center funded by USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

She said the higher 1980 RDA's for vitamin B6—2.0 mg for women and 2.2 mg for men—are closer to the requirements in this study.

"However, they provide only a very small safety margin for women and a little larger one for men." The vitamin's RDA's were reduced in 1989.

Also, she noted, differences in the requirement between men and women seem to disappear as people age.

The findings help to explain why older people test more deficient in B6 than younger people in study after study, she said.

"We don't know why older people need more B6," she said. According to reports by others, "they appear to absorb the vitamin and convert it to its active form as well as younger people."

For up to three weeks, the volunteers ate a diet nearly devoid of the vitamin until their biochemical tests indicated their bodies were depleted. Then B6 was added back to their daily regimen in three phases of gradually increasing intakes until the tests returned to prestudy, or baseline, values.

Other tests demonstrated that getting too little B6 could also reduce older people's immune response.

Immunologist Simin Nikbin Meydani studied blood samples taken from eight of the 12 volunteers throughout the study. She reported a significant drop in the number and percentage of circulating lymphocytes—the

body's first line of defense against infections—during the depletion period compared to their baseline levels.

Also, she said, the ability of both T- and B-cell lymphocytes to divide and conquer was significantly muted during the depletion period as was production of a substance, interleukin II, which signals them to do so.

"These indicators of immune function gradually improved as B6 was added back to the diet," said Meydani, "returning to baseline values during the third phase of repletion." At this point, the men were getting 2.9 mg of B6, and the women 1.9 mg. She reported the findings in the April issue of the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*.

She said she collaborated on the study because a B6 deficiency has been shown to impair immune function in several types of laboratory animals. And older people are at highest risk of deficiency, based on nutritional surveys and biochemical tests.

According to Ribaya-Mercado, "many surveys that have been done show that people—both young and old—are not getting enough B6. But the actual intakes may, in fact, be underestimated because the food tables don't give B6 values for all foods—and surveys would rely on the tables." In this study, she noted, "we knew exactly how much B6 we were feeding the volunteers. Every food item was chemically analyzed."

Poultry, red meat, fish, fruits, vegetables and grain products all provide good amounts of B6. The richest sources are fortified cereals, roasted breast of chicken and Cornish hen, and braised beef liver.

Judy McBride (301) 344-4095  
Issued: July 22, 1991

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## **MADIGAN APPOINTS GRAND ISLAND, MICH., ADVISORY COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON, July 22—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today announced the appointment of members to the Grand Island (Mich.) Advisory Commission. The commission will advise the secretary on the preparation of a comprehensive management plan for Grand Island, which was designated a National Recreation Area (NRA) May 17, 1990.

Appointed to the commission from Michigan are William Spinner, Escanaba; Mark Prout, Manistique; Arthur Easterbrook, Gladstone; Mark Louma, Munising; Gayle Coyer, Skandia; Richard Erb, Grand Traverse

Village; Joseph Burke, Munising; Elson Carberry, Munising; Judith Schwalbach, Escanaba; and Barbara Stark, Munising. Also appointed is Herbert Beich, Denver, Colo.

The Grand Island NRA is managed as a part of the Hiawatha National Forest in Michigan, administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service.

Grand Island is in Lake Superior approximately one-half mile offshore from the city of Munising in the upper peninsula (Alger County). Sheer sandstone cliffs, caves, beaches, fish, wildlife, a variety of vegetation, and cultural history are some of the valued features of this 13,000-acre island.

The commission will study the feasibility and economics of constructing and maintaining a privately operated rustic lodge and educational facility on not more than 55 acres on the island. Other studies will include access by roads and water, utilities, waste water treatment, and garbage disposal.

The first meeting will be July 29-30 at the Forest Inn on route M-28 in Munising. Advisory commission meetings are open to the public.

Gordon Meyer (202) 205-1061

#

## **GENTLER BEE POSSIBLE AS AFRICANIZED AND DOMESTIC HONEYBEES MIX**

**WASHINGTON**, July 23—Extensive interbreeding is taking place as Africanized honeybees move into areas already heavily populated by European honeybees, according to a study by a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist published in the current issue of *Science*.

Thomas E. Rinderer, a geneticist with USDA's Agricultural Research Service, led a team of scientists to sample honeybees in commercial hives across the neotropical Yucatan peninsula. This area was selected because it has the largest concentration of commercial colonies of honeybees in the world and is the first large population of European bees in the neotropics encountered by the Africanized honeybees as they have spread through South and Central America.

"A larger proportion of the bees we sampled were hybrids—genetically intermediate between the two types of bees—rather than being completely Africanized or European," said Rinderer, who works at the ARS Honey

Bee Breeding, Genetics and Physiology Research Laboratory in Baton Rouge, La. "While African-derived bees are influencing the morphology and genetics of the bees of the Yucatan, few colonies were highly Africanized."

The more interbreeding takes place, the better the chances that the undesirable traits of the Africanized honeybees will be diluted, according to Rinderer. These traits include being more likely to sting and more difficult to manage for pollinating crops. Honeybees annually pollinate \$10 billion in crops in the U.S.

The impact Africanized bees have had on bee populations farther south can be attributed primarily to a lack of breeding populations of European bees in those areas, according to Rinderer.

"Areas that have a large number of European bees such as northeast Mexico and south Texas are likely to have hybridization of the expanding Africanized bee population," he said.

"Hybridization can be further enhanced by keeping a large commercial bee industry in the U.S.," said Rinderer. "Beekeepers will need to employ management techniques such as flooding areas with European drones and requeening—i.e., periodically replacing hive queens with queens of known European pedigree."

The Africanized bees became a problem when honeybees were imported from Africa to Brazil to cross with honeybees already present in South America. The aim of this plan was to breed a strain better suited to the tropics. Honeybees are not native to the Americas and were brought here by colonists.

In 1957, the African honeybees were released into the wild and their descendants, called Africanized honeybees, have been migrating north since then.

The first Africanized honeybee swarm was found in the U.S. from their migration northward on Oct. 15, 1990, near Hidalgo, Texas, in the Rio Grande Valley. Since this initial discovery, additional swarms are being routinely found in south Texas.

Kim Kaplan (301) 344-4504

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## USDA LIFTS SOME IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON MEXICAN CITRUS FRUIT

WASHINGTON, July 23—Effective today, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is lifting import restrictions on citrus fruit from Mexico imposed under citrus canker regulations.

“We instituted the restrictions in 1983 because we believed that key limes and other citrus fruit from Mexico might be infected with a form of citrus canker,” said James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. “We are lifting these restrictions because we have determined that citrus canker is not present in Mexico.”

Citrus canker is a bacterial infection that damages leaves, twigs and fruit of citrus and some related plant species. The United States is free of citrus canker, except for two small quarantined areas in Florida, where an eradication program is underway.

Glosser said that eliminating the current citrus canker regulations affecting Mexico will:

- Lift the ban on importing the fruit and peels of key limes (a single lime species) from anywhere in Mexico;
- Lift a ban on all other citrus fruit produced in areas of Mexico that had been considered infested with citrus canker;
- Remove a requirement that citrus fruit imported from Mexico had to be decontaminated to remove the risk of introducing citrus canker; and
- Remove special packing requirements for citrus.

Glosser emphasized, however, that regulations to keep out exotic fruit flies remain in effect. Depending upon its origin within Mexico, citrus (other than limes) must be treated for fruit flies in order to be imported into the United States. Furthermore, all imported agricultural products are inspected to ensure they are free from pests and prohibited contaminants.

The revised regulations were published as a proposal on Jan. 11, with an opportunity for written comments until Feb. 11. Comments received by the deadline were taken into account in formulating the final regulations, which are being published in today’s Federal Register.

Caree Vander Linden (301) 436-7280

#

## **USDA AUTHORIZES HORSES TO MOVE OUT OF AND INTO CANADA FOR UP TO 30 DAYS**

WASHINGTON, July 23—Effective Aug. 23, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will allow horses to travel back and forth across the Canadian border for up to 30 days at a time using a single set of veterinary health documents.

“The change helps implement the Canada-U.S. free-trade agreement,” said James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. “Canada already has finalized similar action.”

Canadian horses will travel under a temporary U.S. Customs Service authorization and health certificate issued by Agriculture Canada veterinarians. U.S. horses will use a USDA export health certificate. This change benefits horse breeders, pleasure riders and participants in horse shows, rodeos and similar events by making it easier to enter both countries.

At present, authorization to cross and recross the border expires in 72 hours, after which horses must undergo a repeat veterinary examination, Glosser said. Since the horse disease status of the two countries is quite similar, extending the permit to 30 days does not significantly increase the risk of introducing communicable animal diseases.

The rule change was published as a proposal on Dec. 28, 1990, with an opportunity for public comments until Feb. 26. Comments received by the deadline were taken into consideration in drafting the final rule, which is being published in the July 24 Federal Register.

Margaret Webb (301) 436-6573

#

## **USDA WILL SWITCH TO METRICS FOR GRADING AND INSPECTING IMPORTED TOBACCO**

WASHINGTON, July 23—The U.S. Department of Agriculture will switch from pounds to kilograms as the basis for charging for its inspection and grading of imported tobacco, effective Sept. 1.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service, said the change reflects the fact that bills of lading for imported tobacco are stated in kilograms. Gauging fees against kilograms saves the trouble of converting the kilograms to pounds at the inspection and

grading sites, thus simplifying the billing procedures and making records more accurate, Haley said.

Notice of the change will be published as a final rule in the July 25 Federal Register.

Copies are available from the Director, Tobacco Division, AMS, USDA, Rm. 502 Annex Bldg., P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456; tel. (202) 447-2567.

Carolyn Coutts (202) 447-8998

#

## **MORE COMMODITY FOODS SLATED FOR CALIFORNIA DISASTER VICTIMS**

WASHINGTON, July 24—Vice President Dan Quayle today informed California Governor Pete Wilson that the Bush Administration is making an additional \$1 million in commodity foods available to families most affected by last December's devastating freeze in California.

According to the vice president, that will bring the total amount of U.S. Department of Agriculture commodities provided to the area to more than \$4.5 million since February.

Because of the freeze and the subsequent wide-spread unemployment among farm workers and agri-business employees, approximately 59,800 households will be without income at least until November.

“These commodities,” the vice president said, “along with other public and private efforts should see the people in the San Jaoquin Valley through until the fall. President Bush and I are committed to seeing that victims of disasters such as the freeze are protected and their families provided for.”

Vice President Quayle congratulated Secretary of Agriculture Ed Madigan, Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney and Wallace Stickney, Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, for their efforts in jointly providing an additional \$13 million in excess Desert Storm foods to the California Department of Social Services for distribution to the disaster victims.

Distribution of these excess foods begins this week and will continue until all 19,500,000 individual servings are delivered to local food banks, the vice president said.

Roger Runningen (202) 447-4623

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